

**LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
SPECIALIZED TRAINING GRANT**

The Department of Public Health and Human Services Bureau of Early Childhood Services (DPHS/ECSB) is accepting applications for the Best Beginnings Specialized Training in Early Child Care and Education Grant. The goal of the Request for Proposal is to identify and fund well-qualified service providers who will provide specialized training opportunities to early care and education practitioners and community agencies concerning identified early childhood needs. Providers of training awarded funds under this RFP must show how the identified need was established and propose how to remedy the need. Providers of training awarded funds under this RFP must show how the identified need was met, as well as ensuring the project results in learner outcomes leading to quality professional early childhood practices.

It is anticipated that approximately \$85,000 dollars is available for the Specialized Training for Early Care and Education providers. Contracts awarded will be funded at \$5,000 to \$20,000.00 per contract. This RFP is for one year non-renewable project and does not require the applicant to provide matching funds.

Training entities or provider groups operating as private non-profit or for-profit organizations (the CCR&R Network is specifically excluded), independent training contractors, and institutions of higher education are eligible to apply. Applicants must be qualified to provide training in the area of early childhood development and/or related topics for early care and education practitioners and be listed (or apply to become listed) on the Montana Early Care and Education Trainer Registry.

Specialized training in early childhood, child development or related topics is defined as: education and training, (including business training/education, related to child care as a business) that:

1. leads to Early Childhood certification or a degree; or
2. advances a participant along the Career Path; or
3. is innovative and not currently available in a community; or
4. Focuses on a special population of early care and education practitioners or special areas of interest to practitioners. For example: special child care issues and challenges in rural areas; addressing the unique needs of providers doing odd-hour or part-time care; how to plan for age-appropriate play and activities; Building skills for consulting with parents about the needs of their children; developing a facility that includes children with special needs; out of school time; Director training; incorporating early learning guidelines; early or emergent literacy; faith-based partnerships; child mental health issues; or social/emotional development.

NOTE: Funding for existing coursework for Infant/Toddler Caregivers is not available under this RFP and is specifically excluded. Existing Infant/Toddler training is funded by separate earmarked funds through the CCDF.

The contract term is for a period of 1 year beginning October 1, 2007 and ending September 30, 2008.

The complete Request For Proposal, instructions, and forms are located on the DPHHS website at

<http://www.mt.gov> and www.childcare.mt.gov. Request For Proposals must be received in the ECSB office, no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 01, 2007. Applications should be mailed to DPHHS/ECSB, Procurement Officer: Renne't Sarbu, PO Box 202925, Helena, MT 59620-2925. For more information please contact Renne't Sarbu at 1-406-444-5925 or resarbu@mt.gov.